

I have a number of concerns regarding the NAB's petition 04-160, one personal, and one intellectual:

1) Personal: I have come to rely on XM's instant traffic and weather on my daily commute in the DC area, as well as in my travels to other cities. Most of my commute is spent listening to local radio stations, especially the very well known WTOP in the DC area. Even though I always listen to the WTOP traffic and weather broadcasts every 10 minutes, I still rely on XM to give me traffic updates when I can't wait for the WTOP updates, or when I miss the WTOP updates because I was listening to other programming and WTOP started their update early. Also, I travel to Baltimore very often, but I do not know the local stations that well up there. The XM station for Baltimore gives me the information I need when I need it; I don't need to search through several different stations to find traffic and weather.

2) Intellectual: economics teaches us that the market is always more efficient at allocating capital than the government is. In my above statement, it should be clear that XM is providing me something I just don't get from local providers -- traffic ALL the time. I perceive value in that, so I pay \$10 a month for that service. If terrestrial radio stations wish to compete, they need to do so by adding more value, or different value, than XM. WTOP provides a far superior traffic and weather report than XM, so I try to never miss the WTOP updates. In this case, WTOP provides a better quality report, so I am willing to stop what I am doing every ten minutes to listen to it. So, without any government intervention, the market has shown that it works -- WTOP provides higher quality, so I don't miss it. XM provides greater volume, so it provides value to me as well.

I respectfully urge the FCC to reject the NAB's petition 04-160. Let the market forces do what they do best. Capital will flow to businesses that use that capital most efficiently; competition is better for everyone.

Regards,

Ingar Grev